

## CLAIMS

- 1 A water-in-oil emulsion preparation for external use on the skin, characterized  
in that the oil phase comprises a mixture of an ester compound obtained by  
5 esterifying the following ingredients (A), (B) and (C); an ester oil; a surfactant; and  
an oil other than ester oil and that the aqueous phase comprises an aqueous  
solution of a water-soluble inorganic salt:
- (A) a polyhydric alcohol,  
(B) a fatty acid and/or hydroxy fatty acid each having 8 to 30 carbon atoms and  
10 (C) a dibasic carboxylic acid having 12 to 30 carbon atoms.
- 2 The preparation according to claim 1 wherein the mixing ratio in the  
esterification is such that the ratio of ingredient (A) : ingredient (B) : ingredient (C)  
is 1.0 mole : 1.0 to 2.5 moles : 0.25 to 1.0 mole.
- 15 3 The preparation according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the compounding amounts  
of the respective ingredients in the oil phase are such that, based on the total mass  
of the ester compound, the ester oil, the surfactant and the oil other than ester oil,  
the compounding amount of the ester compound is 0.1 to 30 % by mass, that of the  
20 ester oil is 1 to 99 % by mass, that of the surfactant is 0.01 to 40 % by mass and that  
of the oil other than ester oil is 0.01 to 98 % by mass; and the compounding amount  
of the water-soluble inorganic salt in the aqueous phase is 0.01 to 10 % by mass,  
based on the total mass of the water-soluble inorganic salt and water.
- 25 4 The preparation according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the use ratio of  
the ester compound to the ester oil in the oil phase is 1:99 to 95:5.
- 5 The preparation according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the ratio by  
mass of the oil phase to the aqueous phase is 10:90 to 90:10.
- 30 6 The preparation according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein ingredient (A) is

glycerol, ingredient (B) is behenic acid, and ingredient (C) is eicosanedioic acid.

- 7 The preparation according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein at least one of  
physical properties, etc.-improving agents generally used in preparations for  
5 external use on the skin is compounded.